



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture  
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September 2008 Small Grain Summary  
For immediate release: September 30, 2008  
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All wheat production, at 164.7 million bushels, is up 10 percent from the 2007 crop of 149.8 million bushels, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Montana's 2008 winter wheat production was 94.4 million bushels, 13 percent above last year's production of 83.2 million bushels. Producers seeded 2.60 million acres, 16 percent above the 2007 acreage of 2.24 million. Producers harvested 2.42 million acres, up 230,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.19 million acres. The 2008 average yield, at 39.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from the August forecast, but 1 bushel higher than last year.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 59.5 million bushels, up 8 percent from 2007 due to more acres planted and a slightly higher yield. The final seeded acreage was 2.55 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.45 million. Producers harvested 2.48 million acres, up 80,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.40 million. Yields averaged 24.0 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the August forecast, and up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Montana durum wheat growers seeded 590,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 570,000 acres, up 20 percent from 2007. The average yield was 19.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year and down 2 bushels from the previous forecast. Total production for 2008 was estimated at 10.8 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's 11.4 million bushels.

In 2008, Montana producers seeded 860,000 acres of barley, 40,000 acres fewer than 2007. Producers harvested 740,000 acres for grain, 20,000 more than last year. The final yield for 2008 was 51.0 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year and up 4 bushels from the August forecast. Production was estimated at 37.7 million bushels, 19 percent above last year.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 1.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Planted acreage was 60,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acreage for grain was 30,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage set a new record low, while harvested acreage and production were the second lowest on record. Average yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, was 1 bushel below 2007, but up 3 bushels from the previous forecast.

For the U.S., all wheat production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and up 4.4 bushels from last year. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.87 billion bushels, up 23 percent; other spring wheat, 547 million bushels, up 14 percent; Durum wheat, 84.9 million bushels, up 18 percent.

The 2008 U.S. winter wheat production is estimated at 1.87 billion bushels, down slightly from the final forecast but up 23 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 47.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from August and up 5.0 bushels from last year's final yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 39.6 million acres, down 2 percent from the last forecast but up 10 percent from the previous year. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 1 percent from the previous year while Soft Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 43 percent.

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Other spring wheat production for the U.S. in 2008 is estimated at 547 million bushels, up 9 percent from the August forecast and up 14 percent from last year. Harvested area is 13.5 million acres, down 2 percent from August but up 4 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, 4.1 bushels above the last forecast and up 3.5 bushels from last year.

U.S. durum wheat production for 2008 totaled 84.9 million bushels, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 18 percent from 2007. Grain area harvested is 2.58 million acres, down fractionally from August but up 22 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 32.8 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the last forecast and down 1.1 bushels from 2007.

Barley production for the U.S. is estimated at 239 million bushels, 10 percent above the August forecast and 13 percent above 2007. Average yield per acre, at 63.6 bushels, is up 3.7 bushels from August and 3.2 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.77 million acres, up 7 percent from a year ago.

U.S. oat production is estimated at a record low 88.6 million bushels, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast and down 3 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 63.5 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from the last forecast and up 2.6 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.40 million acres, is 3 percent and 7 percent below August and last year, respectively. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

#### September 1, 2008 Small Grain Production, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,420.0	38.0	39.0	83,220	94,380
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	590.0	475.0	570.0	24.0	19.0	11,400	10,830
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,550.0	2,400.0	2,480.0	23.0	24.0	55,200	59,520
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,740.0	5,065.0	5,470.0	29.6	30.1	149,820	164,730
Barley	Bu	900.0	860.0	720.0	740.0	44.0	51.0	31,680	37,740
Oats	Bu	75.0	60.0	35.0	30.0	52.0	51.0	1,820	1,530
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,181.0	35,952.0	39,614.0	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,731.0	2,112.0	2,584.0	33.9	32.8	71,686	84,877
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,135.0	12,947.0	13,487.0	37.0	40.5	479,047	546,744
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,047.0	51,011.0	55,685.0	40.5	44.9	2,066,722	2,499,524
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,234.0	3,508.0	3,767.0	60.4	63.6	211,825	239,498
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,217.0	1,505.0	1,395.0	60.9	63.5	91,599	88,635

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